IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the current Abstract in its entirety and substitute therefor the enclosed New Abstract.

NEW ABSTRACT

A method for exchanging data between first and second functional units includes the following steps. In a first handshake procedure, data is exchanged corresponding to a communication thread selected by the first functional unit, while independently in a second handshake procedure, information relating to a status of at least one communication thread is exchanged from the second to the first functional unit. The information enables the first functional unit to anticipate the possibility of exchanging data for the at least one communication thread.